

It was just two years ago that I came to this Well to mark Reverend Newsome's retirement after 38 extraordinary years as Pastor of North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church. This congregation under his leadership has become a beacon of hope in a community struggling against issues of social and economic injustice.

To Reverend Newsome's wife, Alice, his daughters Patricia Cooper and Redonda Newsome, and his son, Reverend Charles Newsome, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Their loss is shared not only by those who knew Reverend Newsome but by all who have been touched by the work he has done. We will be forever grateful for his skill, strength and courage as he sought to make our community and our country a better place for all of us. We are so grateful to his family and his church for sharing him with us for so many years. We celebrate his life without sorrow because we know God has much need of him.

"What does the Lord require of us—to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with thy God"—Micah 6.

HONORING MEREDITH KIESEL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Meredith Kiesel, a 7th grader from Northport, NY, who won first place in the World Hunger Essay Contest. Ms. Kiesel understands our country's need for a plan to eliminate hunger and food insecurity.

SHOULD FOOD BE A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT?

(By Meredith Kiesel)

I think that food should be a basic human right. In our society we have human rights. Some of these rights include freedom of speech, education, the right to vote, to think freely, and to practice and believe in any religion. These rights make our country great and strong. Food is used to give us energy, and to keep us focused on what we are doing. When a person misses a meal they become very tired and hungry.

Every person who has food can contribute to local food pantries and to food drives. If every person contributed, many people would have food. If a local grocery store donated extra food to a food drive or a shelter it would help people who cannot afford food. People who cannot get a job suffer because they do not have money to buy food. If food was a human right these people could get food to support themselves and their families.

Many people who cannot afford food do not have enough energy to do ordinary things. Kids who do not have enough food in their bodies cannot study and learn and cannot do sports or activities that are in their school. They cannot do it because they do not have enough energy. Even with eight hours they will not have the energy without food. If food was a human right they could go out for sports teams or play in their local neighborhood parks and study and become successful.

Food is very important for our bodies and minds. It helps us to think and do regular activities. Without proper nutrients our bodies cannot function properly. These are very important reasons as to why food is very important. The whole world should have food as a basic human right. It would help make the world a happier and healthier place to live.

HONORING FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH EDDIE COURTNEY UPON RECEIVING THE INAUGURAL COURTNEY COURAGE AWARD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 18th of this year, Farragut High School Head Football Coach Eddie Courtney was named the first recipient of the Eddie Courtney Courage Award named in his honor.

This ceremony took place at the end of a grueling and testing season for Coach Courtney and his Admiral football team. Coach Courtney was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease last spring and despite months of radiation and chemotherapy, he guided the Admirals to the Class 5A quarterfinals and an 11-3 record. Throughout his intensive treatment, he never missed a team function, including summer conditioning workouts, cutting the grass and lining the field before games and scrimmages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the courage, strength and leadership of Farragut High School Head Football Coach Eddie Courtney. I also include the following news article printed in the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Jan. 19, 2006]

COURTNEY AWARD STANDS FOR COURAGE

(By Drew Edwards)

Farragut High School football coach Eddie Courtney was named the first recipient and namesake of the Courage Award at the PrepXtra football awards banquet Wednesday night in the Wolf Kaplan Center inside Neyland Stadium.

Courtney was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease last spring and guided the Admirals to the Class 5A quarterfinals and an 11-3 record. Throughout months of radiation and chemotherapy, the 52-year-old coach never missed a team function, including summer conditioning workouts.

He continued to perform his other duties, including cutting the grass and lining the field.

"It started with (my faith) and having great friends," Courtney said. "And I'm here because of the game of football. As a player, it was always just suck-it-up and go."

Farragut linebacker Nick Reveiz said Courtney's attitude rubbed off on the team.

"He's a man, and that's the true definition of a man," Reveiz told the News Sentinel in November. "He takes what life gives him. He doesn't whine about anything. That's one person that no matter what comes his way, no matter how unfair it is, no matter what happens, he's not going to complain about anything. He's going to take what's given and make the best out of it."

Courtney finished his radiation treatments last month and will visit doctors once every two months for the next year.

The Eddie Courtney Courage Award will be given each year to a player, coach or contributor to local high school football who has shown the spirit to face fear or danger with confidence, resolution and dignity.

HONORING JOAN CARR ON RECEIVING THE ATHENA AWARD

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Joan Carr, who is the recipient of the ATHENA award, which honors outstanding women for their leadership.

Since her retirement from the nursing profession, Joan has selflessly served as a volunteer for WWCS Health & Welfare Advisory for the Wayne Westland School District Family Resource Center. She has led numerous community projects, including the Red Wagon Literacy Project, Kindergarten Backpack Project and Literacy Family Fun Night. Dedicated to her community, she has tirelessly worked to identify the needs of families within the Wayne Westland School District, and is considered a mentor and role model to women in her community.

Mr. Speaker, Joan Carr has forged a legacy of commitment and dedication to helping families in the Cities of Wayne and Westland. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Joan, and I congratulate her upon receiving this honor.

HONORING THE WOODVILLE FIGHTING EAGLES 2A BASEBALL TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Woodville High School Fighting Eagles on their 2005 2A Texas State Baseball Championship. Woodville, Texas, is a wonderful community in Tyler County and a proud part of the Eighth Congressional District. For any community in America a state championship is quite an accomplishment and one worth honoring.

While the young men and their coaches worked their way through each level of competition, everyone in the community rallied behind the team driving all over the state to cheer them on to a State Championship victory.

Team starting pitcher Casey Beck was named most valuable player at the State Championship Game. The team clinched the championship with a victory over Holliday High School located near Wichita Falls, Texas, by a score of 2 to 1. In a story that belongs in a climatic Hollywood sports movie, Beck, after throwing 134 pitches in his team's semifinal victory the day before was called in as a relief pitcher in the last two innings of the championship game.

The Austin American Statesman quoted Beck as saying "My arm was really weak. When I was warming up between innings, I had nothing. Coach came over and asked me if I had one inning left, and I told them I'd give it my all. Then that became two innings."

Mr. Speaker, there is something else that makes the people of Tyler County and the City of Woodville stand out. These families and

businesses first opened their homes to Hurricane Katrina victims, then to Rita evacuees from other areas of the state. Following their awesome display of compassion and generosity, Hurricane Rita with 150 mph winds, unexpectedly made Woodville a direct target.

In light of the recent Gulf Coast hurricane season, and specifically Hurricane Rita that devastated Tyler County and its surrounding communities, the team's victory has helped keep this tight knit community even stronger.

Casey Beck's performance in the championship game represents the attitude and "get it done" spirit of the people of Tyler County. Regardless of how tired they are they are going to give it one or two more innings down the stretch, face down one hurricane and then another.

The team was coached on to victory by Head Coach Neil Hennigan and Varsity Assistant Coaches Joe Wilroy, Beau Burnett and Reggie Williams. The members of the championship team included: Casey Beck, Braeden Riley, Reese Winters, Jordan O'Neal, Zack Rigby, Daniel Spivey, Jess Conner, Trevor Rainey, Aaron Hicks, Evan Fortenberry, Logan Alec, Justin Kirkpatrick, Allen Mitchum, Jacoby Williams, Josh Kirkpatrick, Chad Prince, Joel Gentz, Brian MacGinnis, Paul Price, Cullen Williams, and Jack Hickman.

These young men and their coaches have together accomplished so much and made a community and region so proud. Mr. Speaker, I hope the House of Representatives will join me in honoring the Fighting Eagles and the community they represent.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the start of Black History Month with recognizing the many, many great deeds of African Americans, we also mourn the loss of an icon for people of all races—Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King was one of our most influential black woman leaders in the world today.

The "first lady" of the civil rights movement was born Coretta Scott in Heiberger, Alabama. She was raised on the family farm of her parents where she was exposed to the injustices of a segregated society.

Mrs. King excelled at her studies, particularly music, and was valedictorian of her graduating class at Lincoln High School. She graduated in 1945 and received a scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

As an undergraduate, she took an active interest in the civil rights movement; she joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, and the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees. She graduated from Antioch with a B.A. in music and education and won a scholarship to study concert singing at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

In Boston she met a young theology student, Martin Luther King, Jr., and her life was changed forever.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. King has been described as quiet, steady, and courageous and while all of that may be true let it be noted to add steadfast and certainly noble.

Mrs. King was a serious thinker, a committed activist, a talented musician and an outspoken woman whose influence and activism extended well beyond the career of her famous husband.

Mrs. King undoubtedly became a symbol of racial equality for all Americans. For a woman of her stature, rearing four little children when there was civil unrest, and to have suffered the loss of her husband sent a clear message to this Nation that the movement was too powerful to stop and must go on.

Just like the late Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Mrs. Coretta Scott King showed us how to meet personal crisis with courage, and then how to transcend crisis with victory.

Although, I had never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. King, I too share her husband's vision of peace and brotherhood as a steady theme that should be heard all across this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, history has a way of placing women like Coretta Scott King in the shadows of their powerful husbands but it is time we remember them as more than civil-rights-movement wives and widows.

I once heard someone say that behind every good man stands a good woman, but I say to you and to this Nation that beside every great man stands an even greater woman.

Mr. Speaker, her's was a remarkable life, and along the way she helped improve the lives of millions. While we mourn her loss, we must celebrate her legacy—now recognized with that of her husband.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 2006

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 2006." This legislation creates a Congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. I want to thank Senator FRIST, a heart and lung transplant surgeon himself, for introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organs for donation. Over 90,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant; over 2,200 of these are children under age 18. Over 30,000 new patients are added to the waiting list each year. Because of low donor rates, in 2004 alone over 6,150 people died for lack of a suitable organ. An estimated 12,000 people die each year that meet the criteria for organ donation. Less than half actually become organ donors. Recognition of these gifts of life would publicize the critical need to increase organ donation.

Physicians can now successfully transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreases, intestine, livers, and hearts with considerable success. But, without expanded efforts to increase organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need. Incentive pro-

grams and public education are critical to maintaining and increasing the number of organs donated each year.

Health and Human Services, HHS, has already implemented initiatives to raise the public awareness of this vital act of giving life. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with HHS to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is an act that should receive the profound respect of our Nation.

The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act establishes a nonprofit fund to be used to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional commemorative medal to organ donors or to a surviving family member. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. The Treasury Department would provide a small initial loan for start-up purposes, which would be fully repaid. Subsequently, the program would be self-sufficient through charitable donations.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation. I urge swift passage of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act.

COMMEMORATION OF THE VISIT OF THE BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a delegation from my district visiting our Nation's Capital. This delegation represents the Blackwater Community School on the Gila River Indian Reservation, who belong to the Akimel O'otham.

I would like to acknowledge Henry Pino, president of the Blackwater Community School Board; board member Francisco Osife; board secretary Peggy Winchester; and the superintendent and principal of the school, Jacquelyn Power. Through the talent and commitment of these individuals, the students of Blackwater are in great hands. Blackwater Community School has a motto—"Quality Education Begins Here." It was evident in our discussion today that these educators and administrators live up to such an inspiring motto every day.

Blackwater Community School was built in 1939, it was the first operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Arizona, and still educates children and families in its historic, refurbished buildings. The children are in grades kindergarten through second, and a charter expanded the student enrollment to third and fourth grades.

Blackwater has led the way as the highest performing school determined by federal and state officials. Most recently, the National Indian School Board Association honored the school with its coveted 4Cs Award.